

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:604
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
EFFECT OF PESTICIDES ON FOOD
BASUDEB ACHARIA;S. AJAYA KUMAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the excessive use of pesticides is seriously affecting the safety of foods;
- (b) whether the Government have designed any system for proper monitoring of contaminants in food products; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 604 FOR 8TH MAY 2002

The use of pesticides in crops is regulated under the Insecticides Act, 1968, implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Registration Committee, constituted under Section 5 of this Act, registers pesticides for use upon food crops in the country only after satisfying itself regarding efficacy of the pesticides and their safety to human health, animals and the environment.

While registering the pesticides, the Registration Committee also prescribes the crops, pests and diseases for which the pesticides are to be used, their doses, the method of their application and the safety precautions or instructions to be followed for the use of pesticides.

If pesticides are used in the approved doses and in accordance with the conditions following the safety precautions or instructions for its use, then their use do not threaten the safety of food and/or human health.

The Directorate General of Health Services conducts surveys regarding pesticides residues in different food products and crops from time to time. The Indian Council for Agricultural Research conducted a Coordinated Research Project on Pesticide Residues from 1993-98. Ministry of Agriculture is launching a system of monitoring at national level.

In order that the contaminants in food products and crops do not exceed the safe limits, the Ministry of Health has prescribed maximum tolerance limits for pesticides in food products under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.